



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

VI. *A History of a large Tumour, in the Region of the Abdomen, containing Hair.* By JOHN WARREN, Esq; F. A. A. and M. S. and Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Cambridge.

**A**N averſion to the making of large incifions, into ſuch tumours as have appeared to have been ſeated within the cavity of the abdomen, has perhaps often been the reaſon, why thoſe of them, which have happened to contain a ſubſtance leſs fluid than pus, have either induced a hectic, from a copious abſorption of the thinner and more acrid parts ; or, have ſpeedily been followed by a fatal termination. The following hiſtory, may in ſome meaſure evince the ſafety of ſuch large and free openings, in caſes of this kind ; but the facts contained in it, may alſo admit of an application to the purpoſe of explaining certain *phenemena* in the *animal œconomy*.

The production of hair in the human body, though it has often been the ſubject of accurate examination, and ingenious ſpeculation, has perhaps never yet been ſatisfaſtorily accounted for ; or to ſay the leaſt, the ſolution is ſtill deſtitute of that ſupport and conviction, which in moſt other phyſiological inquiries, have ſo happily been attained.

Admitting the poſition, that many, if not all the interior parts of the body, are furniſhed with the neceſſary fluids for the growth of this ſubſtance, an accurate attention to the circumſtances under which it is really produced, and to the nature of the parts in which it is moſt frequently found, muſt undoubtedly afford very conſiderable light on the ſubject ; and from a large number of ſuch facts, carefully and judiciously collected,

it is not improbable that every doubt and difficulty, attending the investigation, may be entirely removed.

Z—— H——, a negro woman, about thirty-two years of age, early in the year 1783, applied for medical assistance, in a case of a swelling in the abdomen, which had become extremely painful, and which began to be attended with very threatening symptoms. On examination, a very large tumour was found seated chiefly on the left side, occupying the whole space between the left *os ilium* and the left inferior ribs, and extending over to the right of the *umbilical region*, pointing a little to the left side of the navel, considerably hard, and extremely sensible. Upon inquiry into the origin of the tumour, it appeared, that the patient had first complained of pain in the left groin, and a general enlargement of the abdomen, immediately after delivery of her third child : This gradually increased after two successive labours, and since the birth of her last child, now about twelve years of age, had been almost constantly painful, though by no means in a very distressing degree, until about three weeks prior to her application for advice. At this period her complaints were greatly exasperated, in consequence of catching cold at the time of the catamenial evacuation, by which a total suppression was induced. The common discutient topical applications were immediately made use of ; the usual methods were employed to renew the discharge ; but all to no purpose. The swelling constantly increased for about three weeks, when an evident tendency to suppuration being perceived, the method of cure was immediately altered from a discutient to a suppurative process. In about two weeks, a fluctuation was perceptible, and at the end of two more, an opening into the cavity of the tumour was determined upon.

An extensive incision was accordingly made through the *rectus* muscle, at a sufficient distance from the usual course of the *epigastric* artery to avoid all danger of wounding it, and about a pint of watery matter immediately issued through the orifice ; after which about the same quantity of pure pus was discharged.

On introducing two or three fingers into the cavity, a quantity of soft substance was felt within it, much about the consistency of soft soap. I immediately made use of a table-spoon, as the most convenient instrument that could be readily procured for extracting it, and about a pound of it was at this time obtained ; after which, as a degree of faintness began to ensue, the wound was dressed, and the patient placed in her bed, in a proper situation for admitting of a free discharge of any fluid that might still be retained.

At the three or four succeeding dressings, a portion of the same substance was taken out, till the whole being extracted, it amounted to the quantity of about four pounds.

At each dressing, the matter was particularly examined, and was found to contain a large quantity of short hair or wool, about three quarters of an inch long, uniformly mixed with it, as is seen in the specimen herewith presented for the inspection of the Academy.

In each hair was discoverable by the naked eye, a bulbous root, and a pointed extremity, both perfectly similar to what is seen in an intire hair produced naturally in other parts of the body. After the removal of the whole substance, the hand was passed into and round the cavity in search of bone, or any other foreign body which might be contained within it ; but though some of the gentlemen present, on supposition of an *extra-uterine fœtus*, expected to have found the former, yet nothing of

either could be felt, though every part was fairly accessible. From this examination, it evidently appeared, that the matter extracted had been contained in a sac which firmly adhered to the *peritonæum*, a circumstance, I believe, generally attendant on suppurations in the viscera of the abdomen, as the natural consequence of previous inflammation.

On being exposed to the heat of the fire in an open vessel, it emitted a strong urinous smell, and was attended in other respects with most of the appearances usually exhibited in the broiling of animal substances. The action of flame produced a smart and continued decrepitation of the salt contained in it, until the whole was reduced to a simple coal; but no signs of inflammability, or the presence of any oily substance, were perceptible. When boiled, the water made use of in the process was very little changed as to its sensible properties; but after standing some time in a vessel to cool, it deposited a sediment which was suspected to be an alkaline salt, and which accordingly readily fermented with the vitriolic acid.

The patient, from the use of the bark, superficial dressings, and a restorative diet, was, in about three months, enabled to enter upon her usual employment, which was business of the most laborious kind. She had during her illness been much reduced, and for some time continued in an emaciated state, yet she now enjoys perfect health, and has become moderately corpulent. The catamenial evacuation has been regularly performed; but no signs of pregnancy have ever appeared, though before her sickness, she had borne children uncommonly fast.

Many of the practitioners in the town of *Boston* were called in to visit the patient, and various were the conjectures upon the  
nature

nature of the case. The absence of all the usual signs of pregnancy, except at those periods which regularly preceded the respective deliveries abovementioned, is a strong argument against the hypothesis of an *extra-uterine fœtus* ; and it should seem by no means admissible, that the bones should have been so perfectly dissolved as to have formed with the muscular, and other soft parts of a fœtus, one uniform and apparently homogeneous mass of matter. Are we not authorized, from the general complexion of the case, particularly from the pain in the groin of the affected side, to pronounce the *ovarium* to have been the suffering part ? The attachment of the *ligamentum rotundum* of the *uterus* to the adipose substance in the groin, seems to point out, either the *uterus*, or some other part connected with it, as the seat of the disorder.

A diseased *ovarium* may easily be conceived to acquire a size too great to admit of it's being contained in the *pelvis*, and from its elevation in the abdominal region, the *uterus* itself might also be raised, and a distention of the ligament thereby be produced. But it is farther probable, that from an immediate adhesion of the *ovarium* to the neighbouring part of the *uterus*, the inflammation with which those parts might be affected, would extend to the ligament itself ; the former cause operating in conjunction with this, would sufficiently account for the pain in the groin of the affected side ; and the application of this reasoning in the above instance, together with the other facts contained in the history, might enable us, without much difficulty, to form a pretty sure diagnosis of the disease.

